

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 30-32 and 34 are pending in this application, and have been found allowable by the Examiner. Without acquiescing to the correctness of the Examiner's position, rejected Claims 10-29 and 33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 3 was previously cancelled.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 30-32 and 34 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicants have made minor editorial changes to Claims 2, 4-9, 30-32 and 34 for the sake of clarity and readability. Accordingly, no new issues are raised by these minor changes.

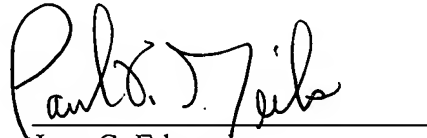
Claims 10-16, 21, 22, 24, 27-29 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Schutz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,108,276). Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schutz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,108,276) in view of Berrahou et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0239080). Claims 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schutz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,108,276) in view of Hodac et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,775,725). Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schutz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,108,276) in view of Mirone (U.S. Patent No. 6,457,379).

In view of the cancellation of rejected claims 10-29 and 33, the prior art rejections are now moot. Thus, all claims are in condition for allowance and such action is hereby solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such an extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Neils", is written over a horizontal line.

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